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For Immediate Release
August 17, 2015

A Decade After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – 10 Initiatives That Make Louisiana Smarter + Safer + Stronger + More Resilient

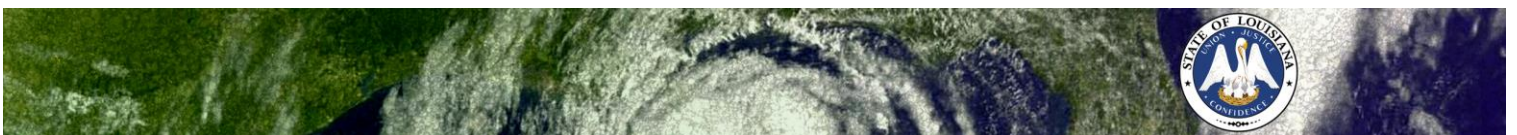
This package provides content and visuals regarding 10 initiatives that make Louisiana safer, stronger and better prepared to meet the challenges of future disasters post-Katrina/Rita.

FOR INFORMATION:

- **Contact Mike Steele**
Communications Director
Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
(GOHSEP)
Mike.Steele@la.gov (225) 925-3966

AND

- Visit the **Katrina/Rita web page** on the GOHSEP website at
<http://www.gohsep.la.gov>.





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Introduction

1. Legislation

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Introduction

Observing the 10th Anniversary of hurricanes Katrina and Rita provides an opportunity to revisit and reflect on the ability of Louisiana citizens, leadership and businesses to rebuild and construct healthy, thriving communities in the wake of the damages inflicted by the storms. It is clear the state has emerged smarter, safer, stronger and more resilient.

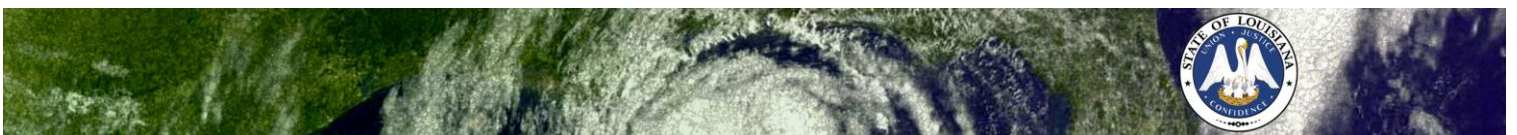
“Today, Louisiana’s recovery from the most catastrophic disaster this country has experienced is **80 percent complete**. Importantly, we are *better* prepared to meet the challenges of *future* disasters because the state and local communities – as they rebuilt after the storms – also invested in resiliency, making our state stronger than ever before,” said Kevin Davis, Director, **Louisiana Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness** (GOHSEP). “Our citizens understand that we live with the threat of severe weather and other hazards. Our recovery continues to be smart – focused on rebuilding in ways that meet the *new* needs of disaster-impacted communities. Facilities are restored in ways that make them stronger. Because of those initiatives the state and our local communities are better able to bounce back from the next storm.”

Damages

Katrina and Rita caused more than **\$163 billion** in damages, displaced more than **1.4 million** Louisiana residents across 50 states and caused the *largest* housing shortage in FEMA history. All 64 Louisiana parishes were included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration.

STORM IMPACTS

- More than \$163 billion in damages
- ALL 64 parishes were included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration
- Over \$1.59 billion in damages to crops, timber, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries
- 217 square miles of Louisiana coastal wetlands were destroyed
- 113 oil and gas platforms were destroyed
- More than 80% of New Orleans was flooded as a result of levee failures



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- More than 1,800 lives were lost across the Gulf Coast
- More than 1.4 million Louisiana residents were displaced across 50 states
- Over 560 emergency shelters in Louisiana housed more than 146,000 people
- FEMA housed more than 85,000 families
- At the height of Katrina and Rita, just over 1 million Louisiana utility customers were without power

Several significant statistical milestones of the massive recovery effort, coordinated by GOHSEP in the decade since hurricanes Katrina and Rita made landfall, give an indication of the investment and resolve to rebuild.

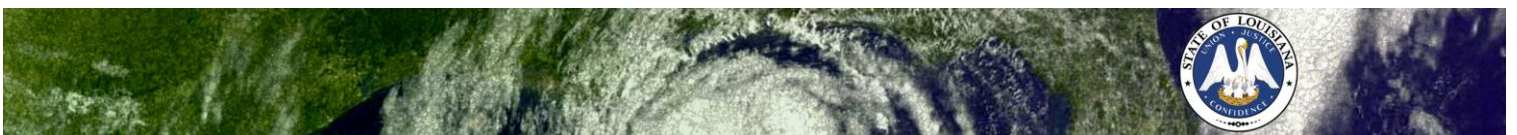
Recovery

More than **\$19.5 billion** of federal recovery investments through the Public Assistance (PA), Hazard Mitigation (HM) and Individual Assistance (IA) Programs have been made to Louisiana residents and communities. Investments include nearly **\$5.8 billion** in IA and nearly **\$1.4 billion** for mitigation projects to build more resilient communities through sustained actions that reduce or eliminate *long-term* risk to people and property.

PA and HM recovery grants and subgrants to local, state, tribal and qualified private nonprofits (PNPs) are managed and administered through GOHSEP. Assistance includes funding for more than **24,000 PA and HM projects** for facilities that have been replaced, rebuilt, repaired, mitigated or are in progress.

Many who were forced to evacuate have returned to their former communities. Businesses have reopened and new ones have joined them. The state and the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** provided more than **\$321.5 million** in **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)** to approximately **185,000 survivors** who lost their jobs as a result of the hurricanes. The state and FEMA provided **\$17.9 million** in relocation assistance so more than **10,000 families** could return to their communities. FEMA funded more than **\$68.5 million** in crisis counseling.

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** appropriated **\$13.4 billion** in **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** funds for recovery. More than **95,800 Small Business Administration (SBA)** applicants were approved for disaster loans totaling approximately **\$6.9 billion**.



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The **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** paid over **215,000 claims** for a total of over **\$16.2 billion**.

LOUISIANA RECOVERY PROJECTS INCLUDE:

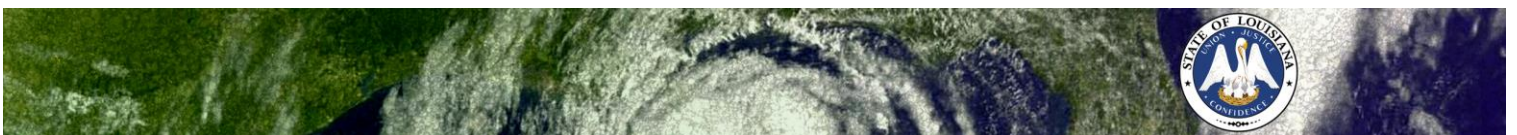
- 77 drainage projects
- 82 libraries
- 91 flood control projects
- 126 plan development projects
- 154 healthcare facilities
- 222 police, sheriff and criminal justice facilities
- 236 fire stations
- 555 hurricane-proofed structures
- 804 pre-K through 12 school facilities
- 840 generators
- 920 higher education facilities
- 7,687 residential elevations

A Safer + Stronger + More Resilient Future

The story of hurricanes Katrina and Rita can also be told as America's greatest recovery. These events have forever changed our state's and the nation's approach to planning and preparation for – and response to and recovery from - catastrophic events. State and federal policies, regulations and statutes continue to be re-thought – and in some cases revised – as a result of what we and the nation have learned in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

How We Pay It Forward

Louisiana has become the nation's *largest* living laboratory for emergency management – to prepare for, prevent where possible, respond to, recover from and mitigate against *future* emergencies or disasters. We are capturing the knowledge we have “earned” as a result of Katrina/Rita and sharing it through the development of job aids, teaching tools, policy recommendations and more that benefit Louisiana grant subrecipients (those receiving subgrants) as well as governmental entities and grant recipients and



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subrecipients across the country.

Louisiana has strengthened its culture of planning and training of emergency managers and first responders in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We export our expertise, embedding staff and responding to needs in communities in places like New Jersey and New York when they were hit by a catastrophic event. We offer our experience and demonstrate systems and business practices we created out of necessity that might help others with their recoveries.

Following are 10 initiatives that make Louisiana safer, stronger and better prepared to face future emergencies or disasters a decade after Katrina/Rita.



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1. Legislation

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita forever changed the size and scope of disaster response on a national and state level. The magnitude of the damage caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita required a coordinated response that *continues* to challenge local communities, the state and our federal partners to rethink our collective approach to disaster recovery.

State Legislative Impacts

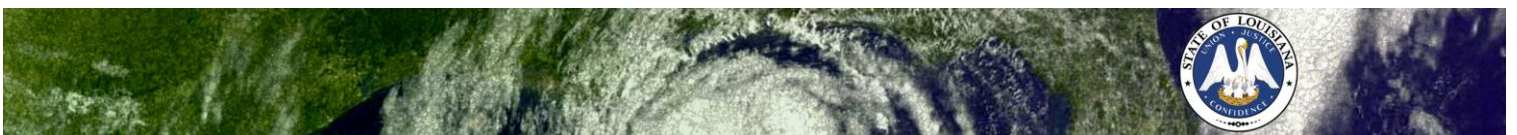
Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act (Louisiana Disaster Act)

GOHSEP

Under the **State Military Department** and previously under the **Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services**, the amended *Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act* (Louisiana Disaster Act – <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=85667>) in 2006 formally placed the **Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)** under the jurisdiction of the Governor's Office as a stand-alone, cabinet-level agency. The Louisiana Disaster Act defined new and far-reaching responsibilities for the state, GOHSEP and local authorities, marking the beginning of a smarter, safer and more resilient Louisiana.



1. GOHSEP HEADQUARTERS + STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (SEOC)



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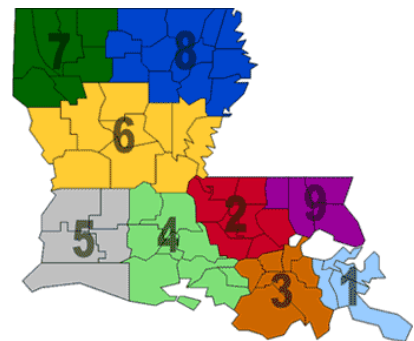
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The Louisiana Disaster Act influences how government and communities respond to and recover from future disasters by establishing an emergency management organizational structure; identifying powers of the Governor, GOHSEP and parish- and municipal-level authorities; articulating leadership roles and responsibilities; and providing for parish-to-parish assistance in times of crisis. Significant activities mandated by the legislation include:

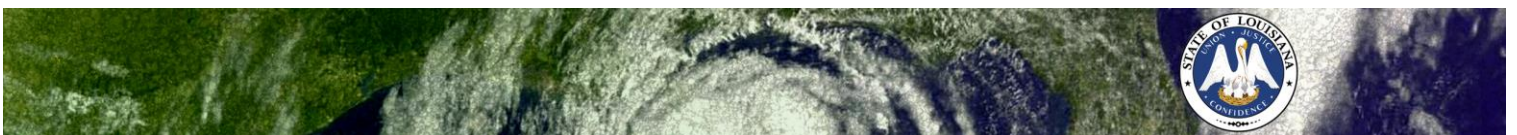
- Establishing regional coordination of emergency management activities among local governments, state agencies and parish-level **Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEPs)**.
- Requiring local government emergency management plans to include pet and service animal evacuation plans, nursing home emergency operations and evacuation plans, shelter plans and more.
- Indemnifying first responders.
- Establishing a register of persons with types of training and skills important in emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.
- Creating the **Parish Emergency Management Advisory Committee (PEMAC)** to offer advice and counsel to the parish or police jury president on homeland security and emergency management issues such as planning; development, prioritization, coordination and implementation of homeland security and emergency management issues; and the expenditures of related grant funds.

Nine (9) Regions

Under the authority of the Louisiana Disaster Act, the state is divided into **nine (9)** homeland security and emergency preparedness regions. Within those regions GOHSEP plays a primary role in planning, training and exercise to ensure Louisiana emergency management professionals, citizens and community leaders and stakeholders are better able to prepare for, prevent where possible, respond to, recover from and mitigate against future emergencies or disasters.



2 REGIONAL MAP IMAGE



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Unified Command Group (UCG)

The Louisiana Disaster Act created the **Unified Command Group (UCG)**. The UCG is the strategic decision making body for emergencies in the state. The Governor serves as the unified commander. Membership is established by Executive Order (EO) of the Governor.

The UCG synchronizes and manages the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) to ensure an efficient and effective emergency or disaster response. ESFs are the organizational structure for coordinating federal and state response resources.

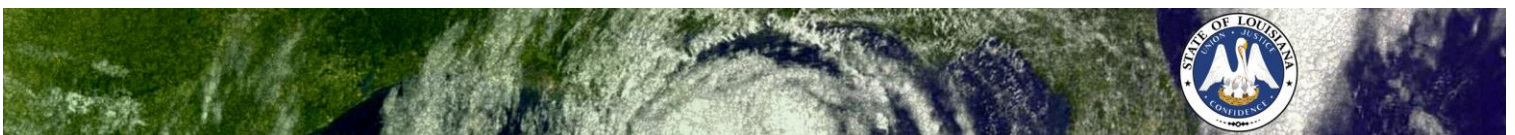


3 IMAGE OF OVERWATCH

Specially Created Subcommittees

The amended Louisiana Disaster Act created three (3) permanent subcommittees of the UCG and provides for the creation of additional subcommittees when needed to enhance the state's ability to plan for and deal with emergencies.

- **Regional OHSEP Directors Subcommittee** provides planning and advice and counsel from a regional perspective on homeland security and emergency management issues. Members include one (1) OHSEP Director from each of the nine (9) regions and the Director of GOHSEP or his designee.
- **First Responders Subcommittee** is composed of emergency management professionals who discuss and provide solutions to issues that arise in the



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- disciplines of law enforcement (LE), fire service, emergency medical service (EMS) and intelligence gathering and dissemination.
- **Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)** implements the *State of Louisiana Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan* and is authorized to design, construct, administer and maintain a statewide interoperable communications system to transport and receive voice, data, imagery and video. The subcommittee coordinates interoperability issues with emergency alert, 911 and 211 services and administers the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN).
 - **Intrastate Mutual Aid Subcommittee** is authorized to design, construct, administer and maintain an intrastate mutual aid system with capacity to share assets in support of a full response to any emergency event that may arise within the state.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

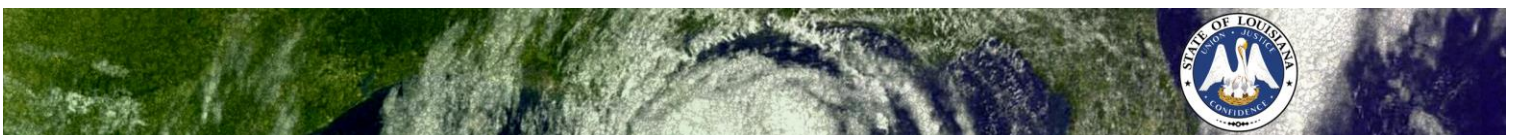
The **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)** is a state-of-the-art multi-agency coordination center located on Independence Boulevard in Baton Rouge. From this location, disaster planning, response initiatives and mitigation activities are coordinated and managed. The SEOC is activated at the discretion of the Director of GOHSEP in response to natural disasters and other emergencies – or when an emergency or disaster event is imminent – including man-made disasters, terrorist threats or other significant events. The SEOC serves as a central operations center for emergency management.

During disasters and emergencies when the need for resources exceeds local capability, GOHSEP assists parish and local governments and coordinates the state's response activities, including interaction with the federal government, nonprofit, faith-based, volunteer and private-sector partners through the SEOC.



4 IMAGE OF ACTIVATED SEOC

The SEOC is equipped with communications, mapping and intelligence gathering technology designed to increase situational awareness and facilitate information dissemination.



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Other Legislative Actions

Additional legislation has been enacted to enhance preparedness efforts within Louisiana schools.

- **Louisiana Revised Statute (LA RS) 17:416.6** mandates each school principal prepare a school crisis and emergency response plan and **LA RS 17:3996** requires Louisiana Charter schools to do the same.
- **LA RS 29:726.3** requires the Superintendent of each local school district, the **Recovery School District (RSD)**, each nonpublic and/or proprietary school to provide building floor plans, evacuation plans and other fire-protection information and known hazards relative to each building to GOHSEP.

Federal Legislative Impacts

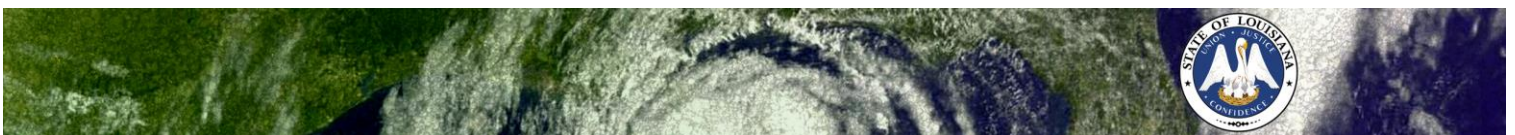
The *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (Stafford Act) is the authority that provides federal assistance in the event of a Presidentially declared emergency or disaster.

Following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, several new federal statutes were enacted, which changed federal emergency management actions, significantly impacting Katrina/Rita recovery and other recoveries across the country going forward. Perhaps the most significant of these is the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006*, referred to as the Post-Katrina Act or PKEMRA.

Among other provisions within the Act, PKEMRA reorganizes FEMA as a distinct agency of the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**, expands its statutory authority and imposes new conditions and requirements on agency operations. PKEMRA provides FEMA substantial new authority to remedy gaps in emergency and disaster response – identified, in part, during the federal response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita – and includes a more robust preparedness mission for the agency.

PKEMRA permitted the FEMA Regional Administrator (RA) to establish Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita Recovery Offices in Louisiana and other impacted states.

Other significant federal legislation occurring in the aftermath of Katrina/Rita include:



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- *Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2005*, known as the SAFE Port Act
- *Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006* (PETS Act)
- *Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005*
- *Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act*
- *Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act*
- *John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007*
- *U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery and IRAQ Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007*

Three (3) Omnibus statutes were passed:

- *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008*
- *Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009*
- *Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009*

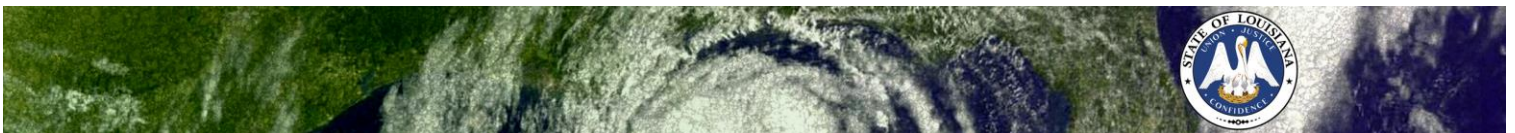
Two (2) other notable legislative actions originating from the Louisiana Katrina/Rita experience are:

- *Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013* (SRIA)
- *Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014* (HFIA 2014)

2. Planning

Planning is a critical component of preparedness. Planning saves lives, property and livelihoods in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Today, as a result of the state's commitment to planning, Louisiana is more prepared to meet the challenges of a future emergency or disaster than ever before.

The Louisiana Disaster Act mandates several planning initiatives and provides the authority for GOHSEP to offer local parishes technical assistance in their planning efforts. Mandated plans include: state and parish emergency operations plans (EOPs), evacuation plans, hazard mitigation (HM) plans, pet and service animal evacuation plans, nursing home emergency operations and evacuation plans and shelter plans.



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Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)

Each parish in the state and GOHSEP has developed and maintains an **all-hazards** emergency operations plan (EOP). The EOP details the overall responsibilities of parish government, the local **Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness** (OHSEP) and the state, and identifies organizational priorities necessary to ensure a coordinated local, state and federal emergency or disaster response.

All-hazards planning and training for **chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear** and **explosive** (CBRNE) threats, including those impacted by a severe weather event, are included in parish and state EOPs.

School-based Emergency Operations Planning

Beyond those planning initiatives mandated within the Louisiana Disaster Act, other statutes (LA RS 17:416.6, LA RS 17:3996 and LA RS 29:726.3) require school crisis and emergency management planning.

Nursing Homes + Hospital Plans

In addition to state and parish EOPs, Louisiana hospitals and nursing homes have strengthened their emergency response and evacuation plans and ongoing exercise of those plans is scheduled. The **Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals** (DHH) – along with state and federal partners – has created extensive backup plans in case hospitals and nursing home primary plans cannot be executed.

Shelter Plans

After Hurricane Katrina, it became obvious that the state had a fairly large number of its citizens living and/or working in flood-prone areas that require assistance in the event an evacuation is called. Louisiana continues to progress in shelter capacity to support large evacuations. In 2008, Louisiana began to develop a plan to provide sheltering for as many residents as possible within the state and with host states near Louisiana.

Shelter plans include those that address general populations, citizens in need of transportation to a shelter and those with special needs. General populations are those who can get themselves to a shelter. Those who need transport to a shelter are



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considered **Critical Transportation Needs** (CTN) populations and are gathered, registered, transported and sheltered utilizing local, state and federal assets.

Today current in-state shelter capacity includes:

- Using local and **Red Cross** assets, sheltering up to **60,000 general population** evacuees.
- **Seven (7)** pre-identified CTN shelter sites that can house up to **10,500 CTN** evacuees.
- **Nine (9) Medical Special Needs Shelters** (MSNSs) and **Federal Medical Stations** (FMSs) that can shelter **1,440 MSN** evacuees and **four (4) FMS sites** that can shelter an additional **1,200** evacuees.
- **Point-to-Point Shelters** (P2P) – shelter agreements between several Louisiana coastal parishes – that can shelter up to **11,895** evacuees at pre-identified locations during an emergency or disaster event.

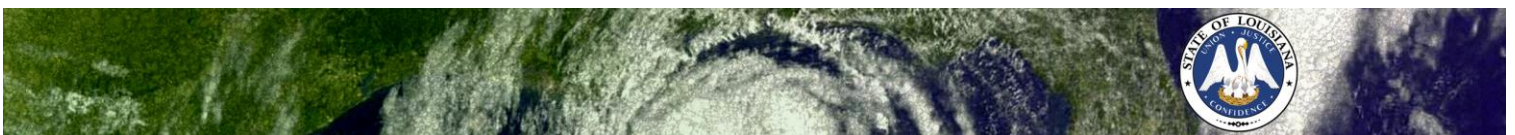
In addition to in-state CTN sheltering capacity, Louisiana has established formal agreements with host states near Louisiana to shelter an additional **22,500 CTN** evacuees.

Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs)

Hazard mitigation (HM) planning is a part of long-term planning to reduce losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, followed by reconstruction and repeat damage. GOHSEP creates and maintains the *State Hazard Mitigation Plan* (SHMP), and provides leadership, technical assistance and oversight to local governments in the development of local plans. Parish governments must have a formally adopted hazard mitigation plan (HMP) in place to be considered for hazard mitigation grant funding.

3. Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN)

The importance of communications interoperability came to the forefront in Louisiana following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Interoperability is the ability of multiple emergency service agencies to communicate across disciplines and jurisdictions using wireless networks to exchange real-time voice, data and imagery information – particularly in moments when they are needed most.



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The devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita severely hampered the ability of emergency responders operating on the statewide 800 MHz analog system to communicate with other emergency service personnel. Communications systems maintained by local governments suffered severe and debilitating damage, which further restricted communications between emergency responders. Many local, state and federal networks were incompatible.

Since 2005, Louisiana has invested more than **\$180 million** – about half coming from federal preparedness grants – to develop the **Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN)**.

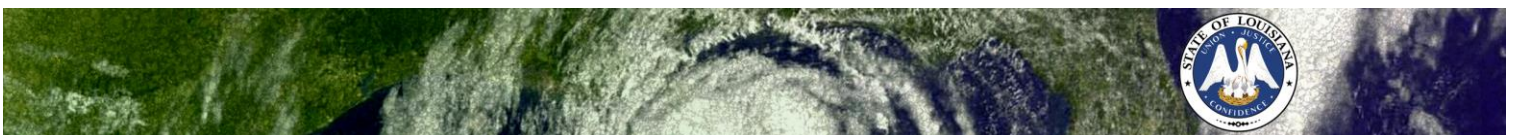


5 IMAGE OF EQUIPMENT

LWIN is the largest statewide radio system in the country. GOHSEP leads and coordinates LWIN, which provides daily voice communications to more than **79,000** users at the local, state, nongovernmental (NGO) and federal levels. Of these users, more than **70 percent** are from local jurisdictions.

When a tower loses connectivity, the state has multiple systems in place to provide continuous communications for the affected area. Redundant systems include mobile tower and satellite sites that can be deployed to the area. Each mobile tower site has a **15-mile** coverage radius and the mobile satellite trailer provides connectivity back to master sites. Where additional capacity is needed or if a tower building is lost, mobile repeaters are available. If the power goes out, generators provide backup power. If external assistance is needed, the state maintains a cache of 700 megahertz radios that can be issued to first responders and public safety personnel.

LWIN has **128 active tower sites, four (4) mobile tower sites, two (2) mobile repeater sites, four (4) mobile satellite dishes, six (6) generators** on wheels and **four (4) master sites** online and operational. Responders now experience seamless communications across Louisiana. The LWIN network can also link to contiguous border networks.

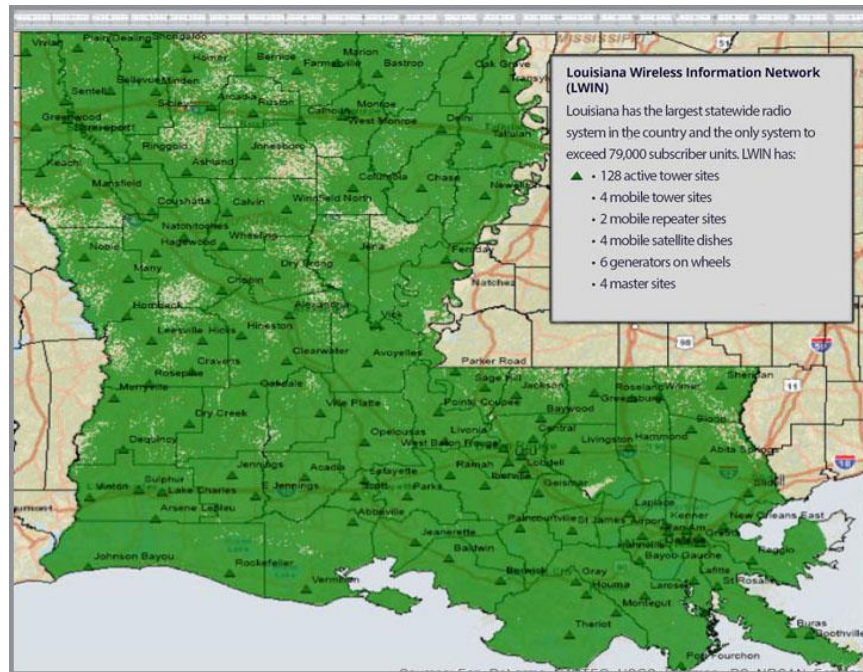


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6 LWIN COVERAGE MAP

LWIN currently provides 95 percent in-building coverage to the nine (9) largest metropolitan areas in the state – **New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lafayette, Houma, Lake Charles, Monroe, Alexandria, Slidell** – and 95 percent portable on-street radio coverage throughout the state.

The LWIN system is fully maintained by the state and charges no fees to its users. A secure system, the state provides access to the LWIN system for authorized state and federal first responder agencies and authorized local agencies that wish to operate on the system.

Today, there is an average of **12 million push-to-talk (PTT)** transmissions per month on LWIN. Planned major expansions will increase system capacity to accommodate additional users over the next 10 years.

LWIN provides a robust seamless **voice** network. Recently Louisiana began a partnership with the **Federal FirstNet** organization to explore the development of a





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seamless broadband network for **data** sharing. FirstNet is an independent organization created by Congress to cost-effectively plan and build out a national broadband data-sharing network **dedicated to public safety**. In partnership with local and statewide stakeholders, **Louisiana FirstNet** is determining Louisiana broadband needs and the integration of infrastructure, equipment and other architecture associated with FirstNet so that seamless interoperable data-sharing requirements of local, state, tribal and regional jurisdictions are met.

4. First Responder Preparedness

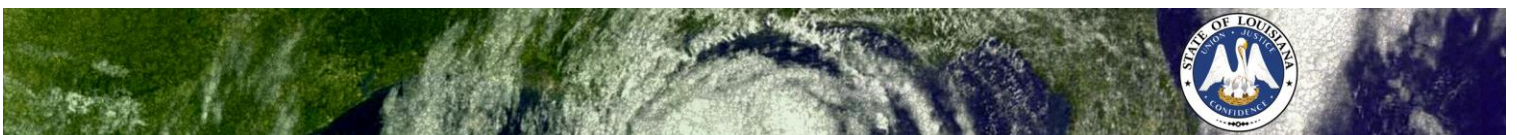
Training + Exercise

Nationwide, the country has spent several billion dollars on equipment, training and exercises since the events of 9-11 to ensure that emergency responders are prepared and have what they need to respond to any and all hazards that this nation may face.

Recognizing this significant investment and utilizing these resources to the maximum extent, GOHSEP has a strong commitment to training, exercise, outreach and education for emergency management and public safety personnel. Since Katrina/Rita, the state has increased its training, exercise, education and outreach efforts to ensure fully trained and prepared first responders.

Training opportunities are coordinated through GOHSEP. Some training is delivered by GOHSEP staff; others are coordinated by GOHSEP through a variety of providers, including national training providers.

Training and exercise topics include threat identification and risk assessments – including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats – emergency operations planning, emergency and disaster response, recovery and more. Training initiatives are often supported by publications, manuals, handbooks and other job aids produced by GOHSEP.

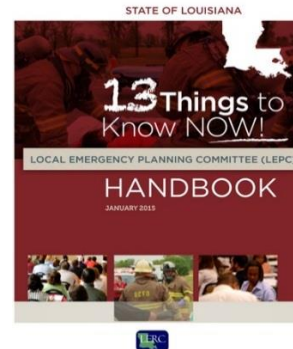
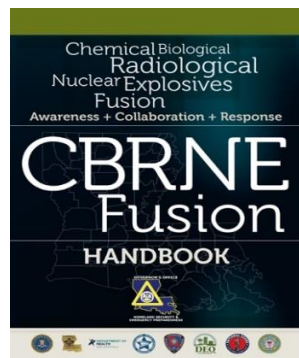
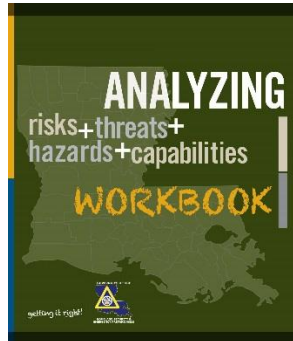
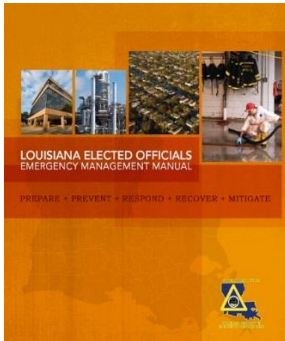


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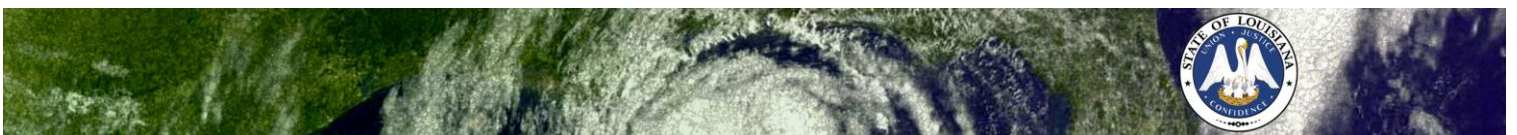
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7 – 10 IMAGES OF PUBLICATIONS: EO + THIRA + CBRNE + LEPC

Exercises are a key component of local and state preparedness, testing and validating local, regional and statewide plans and response capabilities. GOHSEP coordinates multiple regional and statewide all-hazards exercises yearly under *Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program* (HSEEP) guidelines. Exercises give the state the opportunity to test plans and response strategies before a real event. Guidance for program content is derived from guidelines mandated by HSEEP.

Training and exercises are provided to Louisiana first responders at no cost to the responders.



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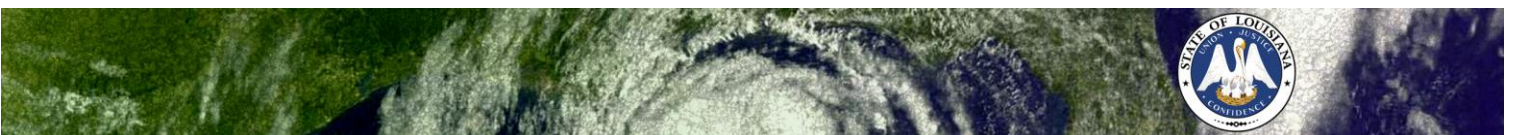
11 ROC DRILL IMAGE

Preparedness Grants

There are several federal grants that provide assistance to enhance homeland security and emergency management and the ability of local, state, tribal and territorial jurisdictions, and other regional authorities in the preparation for, prevention where possible and response to threats and hazards. These emergency preparedness efforts make communities and the state safer from all hazards, including natural and weather-related disasters. GOHSEP takes full advantage of these grant programs, applying for and managing grants and subgranting funds from primary grants to local first responder jurisdictions where appropriate, totaling approximately **\$9 million** annually.

Localities use grants for emergency and disaster planning, equipment acquisition, training, exercise and other needs related to emergency management.

Recognizing that school personnel are the first to respond and the first to make critical decisions in the event of an emergency or disaster on a school campus – in partnership with the **Louisiana Department of Education (DOE)** and using funding provided



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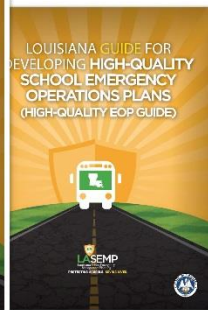
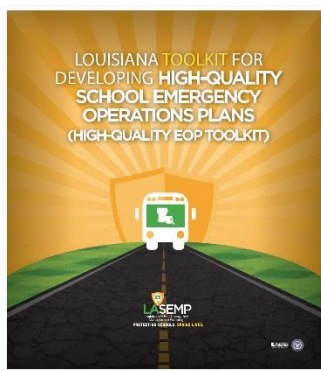
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through the **Grants to States for School Emergency Management Planning (SEMP) Program** – GOHSEP is assisting school districts with emergency operations plan (EOP) development. Using SEMF funds, GOHSEP provides training and guidance to school districts for the development of school-based all-hazard EOPs.

GOHSEP is also a participant in the **State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)**. SLIGP grants are funding outreach and plan development for a first-of-its-kind nationwide broadband network **dedicated** to public safety. The data-sharing network is envisioned to supplement the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) that currently provides a robust seamless **voice** network for first responders and other authorized users, by enhancing the sharing of **data**.



12 + 13 IMAGES OF PUBLICATIONS: SEMF TOOLKIT + FIRSTNET BROCHURE

5. Individual Preparedness

GOHSEP offers and coordinates a number of online and other resources to aid individual and family emergency and disaster planning and preparedness.

gohsep.la.gov

The GOHSEP website, gohsep.la.gov, is a gateway to news and emergency information; social media links to GOHSEP Facebook,



14 SCREEN SHOT OF WEBSITE HOME PAGE



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Twitter, public service announcements (PSAs) and YouTube videos; icons to download apps; information about state emergency and hazard mitigation (HM) plans; information on major hazards; and opportunities for citizens to become informed and engaged in volunteer activities.

getagameplan.org + APPS

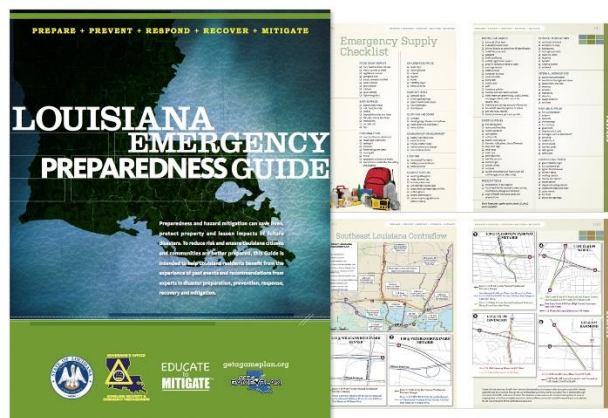
Created in 2008, GOHSEP maintains **getagameplan.org**, a dynamic web-based education and information portal that provides Louisiana citizens the ability to better prepare for, monitor and respond to disasters and other emergencies.

Using an all-hazards approach, the **Get A Game Plan** website encourages a culture of preparedness. It helps Louisiana citizens prepare for emergencies or disasters by offering guidance on pre-event emergency and disaster planning.

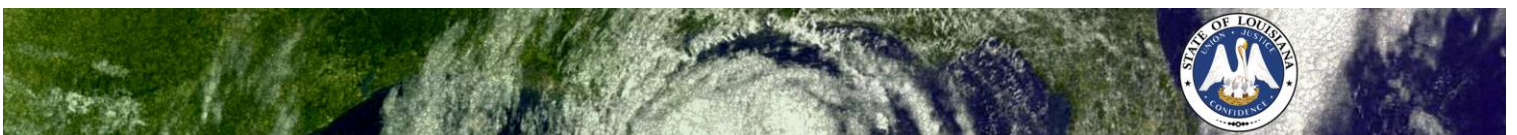
Sections include **Family Plan**, **Business Plan**, **Mitigation Plan** and **Kid's Plan**. Within individual sections the site provides recommendations for emergency kits and evacuation plans, business continuity planning, weather alert sign ups, shelter locations and more. The site also includes a downloadable copy of the *Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide*. The 26-page guide provides an overview of what residents can do to better prepare for and respond to, recover from and mitigate the impacts of future incidents. Emergency preparedness guide downloads are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.



15 SCREEN SHOT OF GAGP PAGE



16 IMAGE OF PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



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Get A Game Plan is available as a downloadable app. The app provides pertinent evacuation information; includes sheltering, pet sheltering, special medical needs information, evacuation maps for viewing in the event of an emergency or disaster and more. The **Get A Business Plan app** has information needed for a business owner to prepare for an emergency or disaster.

Launched in 2013, another app featured at getagameplan.org is the statewide **ALERT FM** system. Using local FM radio transmission towers, Alert FM functions like a weather radio, but with unique local alerts for the public from emergency officials. Unique messaging includes NOAA weather warnings, school and road closures, evacuation and re-entry instructions and more. Approximately **90 FM radio stations** across the state participate in the ALERT FM network.

The ALERT FM smart phone app can be downloaded free of charge. The public can purchase a "premium services" app or buy an ALERT FM receiver.



18 GAGP APP

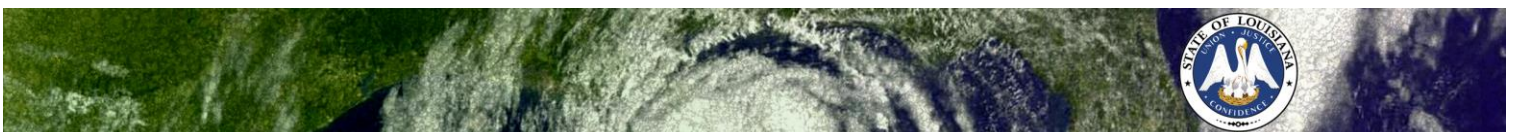


19 ALERT FM APP

getagameplan.org has links to other apps and websites that contain pre-disaster planning tips, hazard mitigation steps and other emergency preparation. The site can be accessed directly or through a link from the main gohsep.la.gov portal.

emergency.LOUISIANA.GOV

Individuals, families and businesses have immediate access to important communications about disasters and other emergencies through



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emergency.LOUISIANA.GOV, an online resource that carries current information, archives about past events and links to state, federal and nonprofit organizations involved with disasters.

Citizen Corps

Citizen Corps is a grassroots strategy that brings together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and response. The dedication of Louisiana citizens to disaster preparedness and recovery is an essential element in the preparedness progress the state has made over the last decade. Since Katrina/Rita, Louisiana has raised awareness among citizens regarding the important role they play as volunteers, resulting in informed communities that are more capable to respond to the challenges of future disasters.



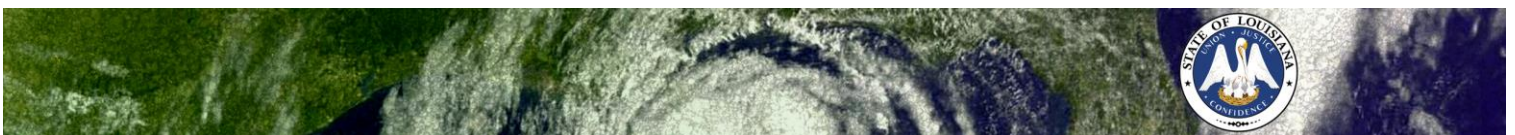
20 emergency.la.gov

Currently there are **30 Citizen Corps Councils** in Louisiana.

Citizen Corps asks Louisiana residents to embrace personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief and community safety. Local councils – in partnership with government and community leaders – conduct risk-driven, community-based preparedness planning. Local councils also provide educational, outreach and training opportunities through multiple channels that target key populations, including youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly and others with special needs.

Citizen Corps has **five (5)** key programs that provide support to citizens; neighborhoods; and medical, fire and law enforcement first responders:

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**
- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**
- **Fire Corps (FIRE)**
- **Neighborhood Watch**



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- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)



21 IMAGE OF CC BROCHURE

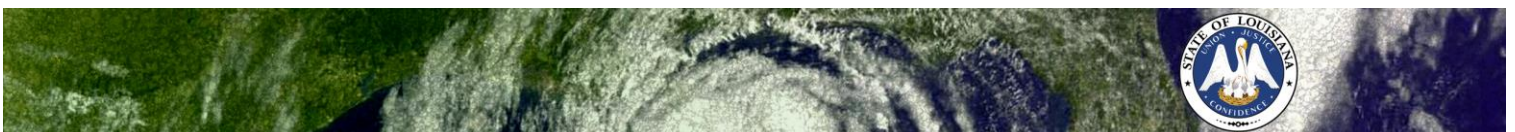
6. Business Preparedness

The **Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LA BEOC)** is Louisiana's emergency operations center (EOC) dedicated to improving emergency and/or disaster preparedness, response and recovery for businesses. A conduit between Louisiana businesses and the Louisiana emergency management community, LA BEOC enhances Louisiana's emergency management efforts and the coordination of private-sector involvement and support during a time of crisis. It facilitates connectivity between emergency preparedness, response and recovery professionals with the state's business sector, particularly those businesses that are major economic drivers or are owners and operators of critical infrastructures and key resources (CI/KR).

Operationally conceived in 2005 following hurricanes Katrina and Rita and deployed for the first time in 2008, the LA BEOC is the first of its kind in the nation.

LA BEOC works with Louisiana businesses to improve:

- Disaster preparedness.



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- Communications with businesses and industry before, during and after disaster events.
- Response and self-sufficiency by increasing the use of Louisiana businesses in meeting emergency and/or disaster-related needs, reducing Louisiana's reliance on FEMA and out-of-state assistance providers.

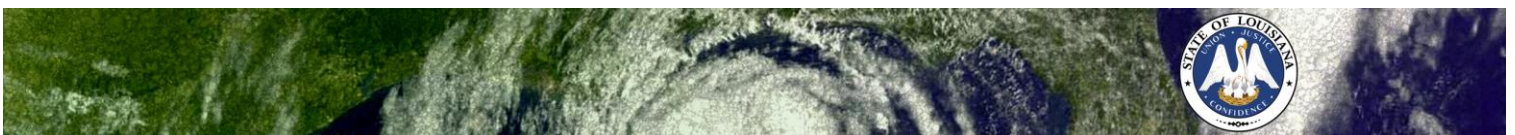
During an emergency and/or disaster response, LA BEOC supports coordination of Louisiana – and national – business-related activities and resources. It also:

- Provides incident-specific situational awareness.
- Identifies critical supply chains.
- Maintains lists and contact information for Louisiana providers of goods and services likely to be needed in an emergency or disaster response.
- Prioritizes and coordinates re-entry to an emergency or disaster site.

By using Louisiana businesses first – before seeking materials, supplies and services from out-of-state providers – the LA BEOC facilitates and expedites the economic recovery of local communities, increasing the economic resiliency of Louisiana communities and local and statewide businesses.

More than **40** Louisiana business leaders and industry trade associations along with representatives from the **Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters** (LA VOAD) have seats at the LA BEOC facility. LA VOAD is the Louisiana chapter of **Volunteers Active in Disaster** (VOAD), the leader and voice of the nonprofit organizations and volunteers that work in all phases of disaster – preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation.

When activated, LA BEOC representatives make disaster recovery and response recommendations to GOHSEP, **Louisiana Economic Development** (LED) and the Governor's Unified Command Group (UCG) – the strategic decision making body for emergency and disaster response. Other Louisiana businesses are called on to assist with specific expertise and to meet specific needs.



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22 LA BEOC BROCHURE IMAGE

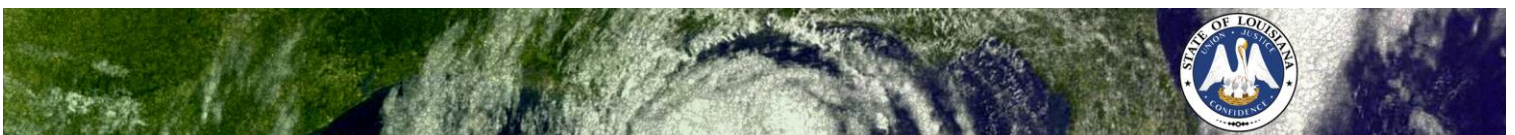
7. Community Education + Outreach

GOHSEP provides important information and guidance to emergency management professionals and community stakeholders through regularly scheduled workshops, seminars and other outreach initiatives across emergency management disciplines: Prepare. Prevent. Respond. Recover. Mitigate. Outreach and education initiatives address local, state and other roles and responsibilities within the emergency management community, include guidance on grants management, program summaries and overviews, introduce changing grant application and implementation requirements and more.

Post-Katrina/Rita flagship initiatives include:

Elected Officials

Louisiana elected officials have significant responsibilities in preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation under the Louisiana Disaster Act. The *Louisiana Elected Officials Emergency Management Manual* (EO Manual) – produced by GOHSEP – is a high-level view of important statutes regulations, guidance and resources, including many within GOHSEP that help explain the emergency management world. From preparedness and planning before an emergency through long-term recovery efforts in



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disaster-impacted communities, the Elected Officials Manual is a valuable resource to local and state decision makers.

Subgrant Recipients

Federal recovery grants are an important resource in disaster response and recovery. Grants through the **Public Assistance (PA) Program** provide *supplemental* federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of eligible private nonprofits (PNPs). Eligible PNPs are those that provide critical and essential governmental-type services. Post-disaster **Hazard Mitigation Program Grants** (HMPG) help communities reduce the impacts of future disasters. **Individual Assistance** (IA) is provided directly to eligible disaster-impacted individuals or families. IA grants help with childcare, utilities, special and personal needs, temporary housing and more in the aftermath of a Presidentially declared disaster.

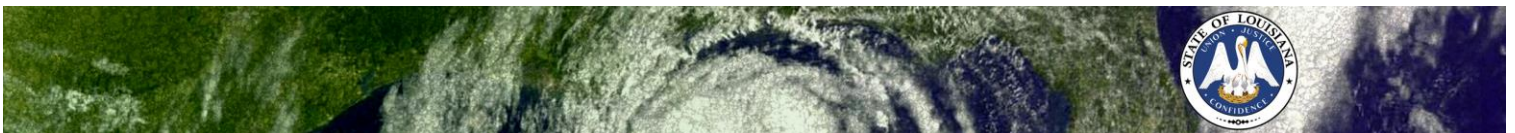
Louisiana is also the recipient of **preparedness** and **homeland security grants** that support emergency and disaster preparedness, training, exercise and other emergency management-related activities. Administered by GOHSEP, these grants help communities prepare for, prevent where possible and respond to emergencies or disasters.

Grant funds are either awarded to the state or directly to a tribal authority if the tribe is a federally recognized Native American Indian tribe and the tribe chooses to apply directly for federal assistance. The entity receiving a grant is the recipient. Eligible local entities, state-agencies and PNPs are awarded subgrants and are called subrecipients.

Regulatory Compliance

Recipients and subrecipients must comply with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations regarding the implementation of their grant(s). Recipients and subrecipients must also comply with rules and regulations regarding procurement – the acquisition of goods and services – when using federal funds.

The federal share of post-disaster recovery assistance is typically not less than 75 percent of the eligible project costs for emergency measures and permanent restoration work. The remaining 25 percent is provided by the entities applying for assistance. The federal share for hurricanes Katrina/Rita is 100 percent, meaning there is no local cost



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share. Hurricane Isaac was a 75/25 percent cost share, with the federal government providing 75 percent of eligible costs and the grant subrecipient providing 25 percent.

Today, GOHSEP is administering more than **\$19.5 billion** in federal recovery grants, pushing out an average of **\$1 billion** per year since 2007, approximately **\$100 million** per month. Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the state has received **\$279,995,460** in preparedness grants.

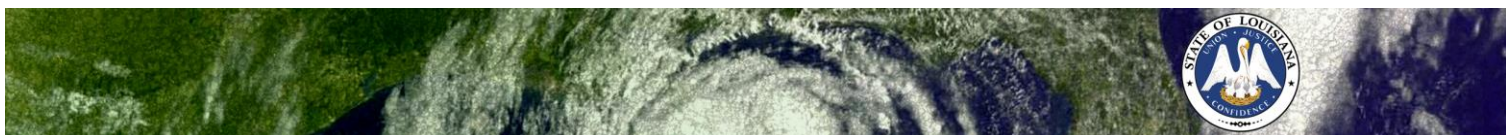
Stakeholder Outreach

Stakeholder outreach and education is critical. With billions of dollars in recovery assistance at stake following a catastrophic disaster like hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is important to understand the intricacies of an increasingly challenging, complex and nuanced federal grants environment. Never has grant implementation, procurement using federal resources and close-out processes been more challenging. The compliance task is significant as the state, together with FEMA, makes policies written for disasters with smaller geographic footprints and economic impacts, work for a catastrophic disaster recovery the size of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

To ensure grant implementation and the expenditure of federal grant funds are compliant with statute and regulation, GOHSEP provides extensive outreach and education to Louisiana grant subrecipients. To address issues confronting subrecipients and the challenges that may affect the implementation of their federal grant funding, GOHSEP annually hosts a series of outreach workshops across Louisiana to help subrecipients understand their role and responsibilities when accepting and implementing federal recovery grants. Stakeholder outreach initiatives provide subrecipients regulatory updates, identify documentation and other grants management requirements and introduce programmatic guidance to assist in successfully applying for, administering and closing grants.

Examples of workshop topics include:

- Debris management.
- Overviews of FEMA PA and HM Programs.
- Eligibility of PNPs that provide critical and essential governmental-type services for recovery assistance under both the FEMA PA and HM Programs.
- Role of alternate and improved (A/I) projects so that today's community needs are met, beyond the return to a pre-disaster state.



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- Role of environmental and historic preservation (EHP) compliance in the implementation of recovery projects.
- Insurance requirements for recovery grants.

Other topics are covered that help subrecipients of FEMA and other federal funds receive assistance to which they are entitled and comply with regulations so they keep the funds they are granted.

Procurement

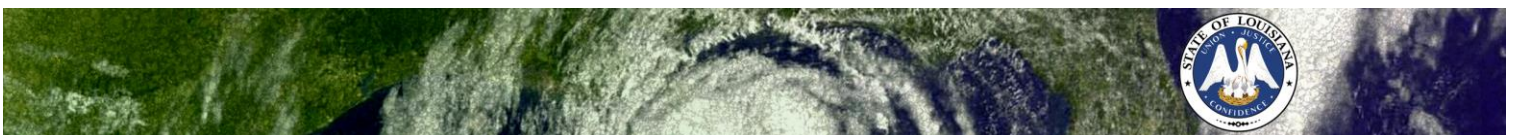
An important focus of stakeholder outreach and education is procurement. Not following federal procurement guidelines is the *primary* threat for funding deobligation – when grant funds have to be returned.

Understanding procurement rules can be overwhelming without help. GOHSEP provides several resources to assist in proper procurement. In addition to stakeholder workshops, GOHSEP hosts a Legal Seminar – every other year in the fall – that offers a more advanced discussion of procurement regulations. Workshop presenters are GOHSEP professional staff and subject-matter experts (SMEs), along with other SMEs from the private sector.



23 + 24 WORKSHOP IMAGES

Participants in GOHSEP outreach and education efforts include local and parish elected officials, parish OHSEP Directors, first responders, administrators, financial and grant managers, planners, economic and community development officers, public works leaders, recovery and mitigation SMEs, purchasing and procurement officers, engineers,



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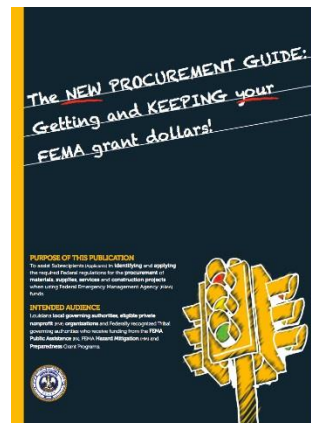
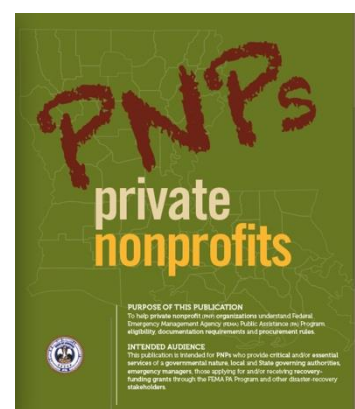
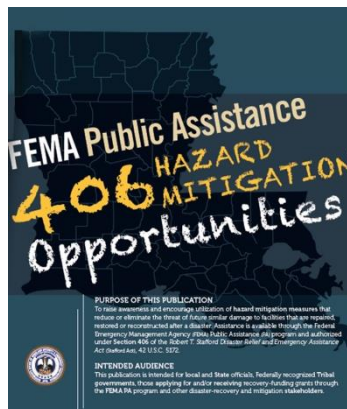
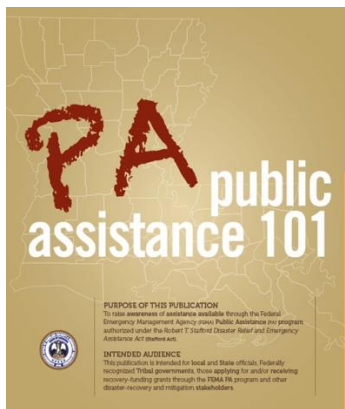


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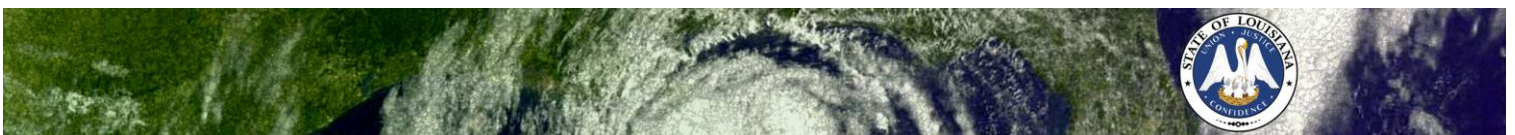
legal advisors, contractors, nonprofit leadership and other emergency management stakeholders.

Job Aids

GOHSEP produces and distributes materials and job aids to further help subrecipients better understand programmatic and implementation requirements and to raise awareness among local and state officials, as well as disaster-recovery and mitigation stakeholders of the assistance available through programs authorized under the Stafford Act. Materials include programmatic brochures, planning tool kits, training manuals, a Public Assistance (PA) ToolBox, desk references, “how to” checklists and more.



25 – 29 IMAGES OF MATERIALS



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8. Hazard Mitigation (HM) Strategies

Hazard mitigation (HM) is any *sustained* actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people or property from hazards and their effects. Hazard mitigation is the lone phase of emergency management dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction and repeat damage.

Hazard mitigation measures reduce the loss of life and/or property due to an emergency or disaster, creating safer and stronger communities. Hazard mitigation initiatives result in more resilient communities – better prepared to meet the challenges of future disasters and better able to quickly bounce back after an emergency, disaster or other major disruption. Safer and stronger communities as a result of mitigation efforts reduce the physical and financial impacts of disasters at the local, state and federal levels. These efforts enable a more rapid recovery.



The state, through GOHSEP, provides leadership for local and state mitigation planning efforts. GOHSEP creates and maintains the *State Hazard Mitigation Plan* (SHMP), and provides technical assistance and oversight to local governments in the development of local plans. Since Katrina and Rita, each parish has a formally adopted hazard mitigation plan (HMP) – a requirement to be considered for federal HM grant funding. With more than **\$23 million** in FEMA assistance, the state went from just four (4) parish HMPs to 68, including **all 64 parishes**.

Of the **\$19.5 billion** in federal recovery investments in Louisiana since 2005, nearly **\$1.4 billion** has been invested in mitigation projects to make disaster-damaged communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

GOHSEP administers FEMA-related hazard mitigation assistance programs, including:



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- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Programs** – both awarded on a nationally competitive basis and generally available annually.
- Post-disaster **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** available as a result of a Presidentially declared emergency or disaster event.
- Mitigation funding opportunities provided under the **FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program**, also available as a result of a Presidentially declared emergency or disaster event.

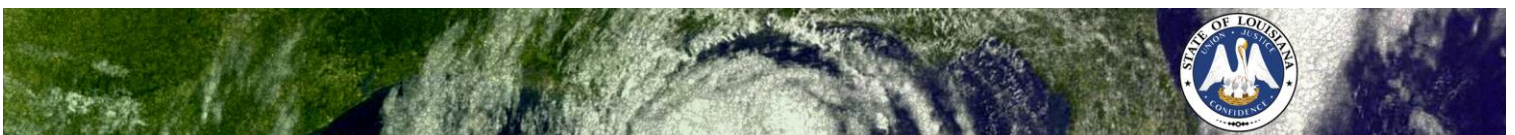
All are important funding opportunities and resources.

Local authorities and state agencies apply to FEMA for HMA grants through GOHSEP. Individuals and businesses apply through their parish governing authorities. Federally recognized Native American Indian tribes have the option to apply through the state or directly to FEMA.

With increased awareness, local governing authorities, homeowners, business leaders and the state have embraced hazard mitigation. Building and retrofitting so that structures can withstand hurricane-force winds, elevating above floodwaters and relocating structures to avoid the path of destruction are key mitigation strategies. Louisiana has a history of major hurricanes, experienced hundreds of flooding events and felt the impacts of damaging high winds and storms.

More than **24,000** PA and HM projects administered through GOHSEP are in place that rebuild, repair and/or mitigate Louisiana structures. Included in that total are **7,687 residential elevations**. For greater disaster resiliency and safety, elevating structures within the state has been a significant effort in the years since Katrina and Rita. In addition to homes, elevations include official buildings, fire stations, schools, hospitals and other structures.

Elevations are an important mitigation protective strategy. For example, consider **South Cameron Parish Hospital**. A symbol of renewal in the recovery since Hurricane Rita, South Cameron Hospital was built on the same grounds where the original hospital – built in 1963 – was destroyed. The replacement structure was **constructed five (5) feet above grade** and on pillars, to stand **10 feet above sea level**. The new hospital's increased elevation saved it from the storm surge during Hurricane Ike in 2008 and made it possible for the facility to be the location of first responder activities during Ike.



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Empowering Individuals + Decision Makers

Following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, GOHSEP, supported by a federal grant, designed and implemented a one-of-a-kind community education and outreach (CEO) program focused on mitigation education. The program was branded *Educate to Mitigate*.

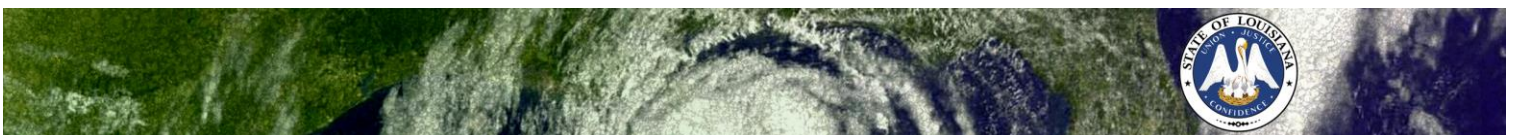
Targeting individual citizens and local and state elected officials and decision makers, the program's goal was to raise awareness of hazard mitigation initiatives and inform and empower local decision making. By increasing awareness, it was hoped that mitigation opportunities are considered not only during disaster recovery, but when every-day home-repair and improvement decisions are made, new construction is contemplated, new community projects are designed and when infrastructure decisions are evaluated so that individuals, communities and public and private structures are better equipped to meet the challenges of future disasters.

The CEO initiative had several outreach partnerships. Among those was the partnership with the **Building Officials Association of Louisiana (BOAL)**, GOHSEP produced and distributed through local permitting offices, consumer education materials regarding the advantages of hardening buildings, applying roof straps and window screens to protect against high winds, elevate homes and other structures in low lying areas to avoid flooding and more.

Other CEO partnerships included the following organizations among others:

- **Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA)**
- **Louisiana Press Association (LPA)**
- **Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB)**
- **Louisiana State University Ag Center (LSU Ag)**
- **National Incident Management Systems & Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT)**
- **Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI)**
- **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**
- **University of New Orleans Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (UNO CHART)**

Activities ranged from community outreach events to curriculum development projects, website development and the creation of support materials. **Twenty-one (21) newspaper ads, 20 television and radio public service announcements (PSAs)** were



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produced through the CEO program. Through partnerships and direct distribution, more than **1.6 million** pieces of literature with hazard mitigation messaging, including brochures, workbooks, posters, counter cards and more were distributed to Louisiana citizens and community leadership.



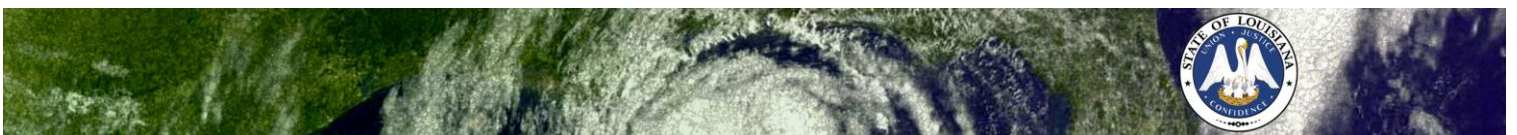
31 + 32 BOAL MATERIAL IMAGES + CEO NP + PSA IMAGES

9. Organizing + Coordinating Recovery Resources

In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a range of important work, planning and resources was needed to get affected communities and their populations on the road to recovery, rebuilding and back to what is often called a “new” normal.

The emergency management community has long known that a coordinated response is necessary to ensure successful recoveries from any disaster – no matter the size or impacts. However, the larger the disaster, the more critical coordination is to successful recoveries.

Many federal agencies and departments have resources to help disaster-damaged communities overwhelmed by a disaster or lacking in local capacity to respond and recover or both. Disaster response resources are organized around an Emergency



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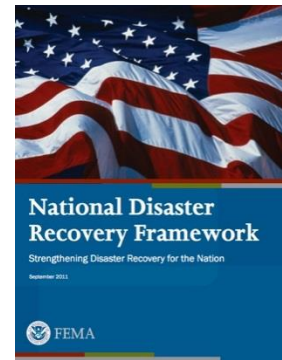
Support Function (ESF) system, identifying by number and type of recovery resources and services each provides. There are **15 federal ESFs** and **16 Louisiana ESFs**.

During Katrina/Rita, FEMA established a new federal ESF – ESF 14 – to focus on enhancing coordination between local, state, federal, nongovernmental (NGO) and other recovery partners, as well as those found in the private, faith-based and nonprofit sectors that have recovery resources and can provide recovery assistance.

A New Recovery Framework

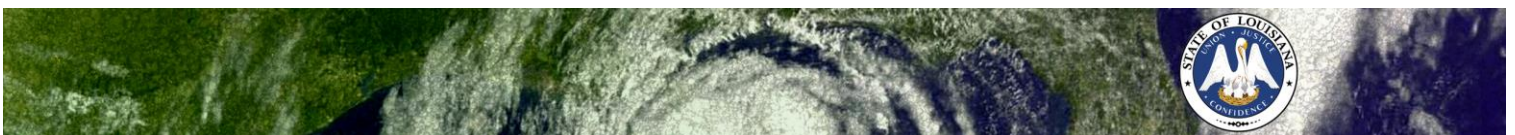
The Katrina/Rita ESF 14 experience led – in part – to the creation of the *National Disaster Recovery Framework* (NDRF). The NDRF is one of five (5) *National Planning Frameworks* that are part of the **National Preparedness System**.

The NDRF emphasizes pre- and post-disaster planning and creates a new leadership model and organizational and coordination structures – **Recovery Support Functions** (RSFs). Similar to the ESF system, RSFs are the infrastructure that streamline and facilitate the identification, coordination and delivery of recovery resources found within local, state and federal agencies, NGOs and other recovery stakeholders. There are **six (6) federal RSFs**, each with primary and coordinating lead state and federal agencies.



33 NDRF IMAGE

Beyond the Katrina/Rita experience that helped inform the development of the NDRF, after Hurricane Isaac in 2012, Louisiana parishes helped lead the way in using these new paths to recovery. For example, following the NDRF model, residents and community leaders in **St. John the Baptist Parish** offered input and vision to help their community rebound from Isaac. Those efforts helped the community to capitalize on opportunities to rebuild smarter, safer and stronger.



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St. John the Baptist Parish launched a volunteer committee – *One Parish, One Future: Building Back Better and Stronger* – to help rally public support for and participation in the local recovery effort. The initiative encouraged public participation and contribution of ideas and strategies for rebuilding through in-person activities at community events and through parish online surveys, resulting in a parish recovery plan. Whole community participation in recovery is a cornerstone of the NDRF.



34 IMAGE OF ST. JOHN PLAN

The private sector also plays an important role in recovery within the NDRF. Businesses are encouraged to contribute resources or personnel as well as participate in community recovery planning. At the regional, state and national levels, corporations, foundations and individuals may be approached for technical assistance and grants or other resources.

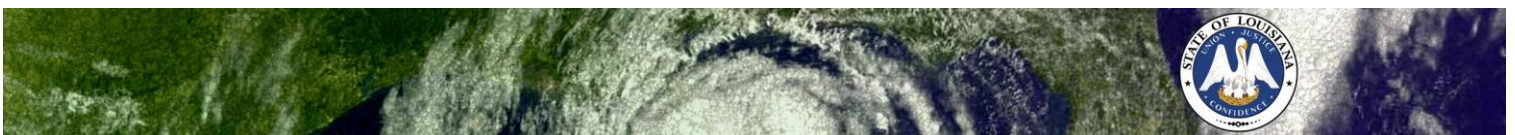
Governor Jindal issued *Executive Order (EO) BJ 14-9* to update the Louisiana emergency operations plan (EOP) so that it aligns closely with the NDRF. The EO identifies state RSFs, facilitating the coordination of federal recovery resources with state agencies having the personnel, equipment and other resources necessary to effectively support Louisiana during disasters and recovery.

10. Port Safety + Security

The readiness and safety of Louisiana's ports, which are vital to the nation's supply routes and energy production resources, has been improved significantly since hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Advancements have been made in their capacity to manage emergencies and disasters; security and communications systems have been fortified. Examples include **Port Fourchon** and the **Port of Morgan City**.

Port Fourchon services approximately **18 percent** of the nation's energy supply and **90 percent** of deepwater oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico in addition to local commercial fishing and business tenants.

Post-Katrina, Port Fourchon received more than **\$1.1 million** in federal grant assistance from the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Port Security Grant Program** to assist in improving security at the port. Funds enhanced the port's **Maritime Domain**



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Awareness (MDA) System. Using a digital two (2)-way radio communications system, the MDA allows emergency responders to receive information in real time and provides a framework for local, state and federal agencies to communicate effectively with a common operating picture.

The system is located in Port Fourchon's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which was completed in 2014 – a **\$3.4 million** facility with nearly **\$1.4 million** in federal port security grant funds contributing to its construction. The new facility includes some of the most technologically advanced real-time data sharing and communications capabilities available, providing government and industry with the most robust emergency operations center in the nation to service the oil and gas industry, making Port Fourchon an important proving ground for innovative approaches to port security.



35 PORT FOURCHON IMAGE

Recently becoming a hub of import-export shipping, the Port of Morgan City primarily serves the inland and offshore oil and gas drilling and production industry. In May of this year, the port installed the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS)**. PORTS is an integrated system of meteorological and oceanographic sensors that provides real-time information about environmental conditions in seaports. PORTS increases navigational safety and allows increased efficiencies in ships transiting through the port. The system provides



KATRINA RITA



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information on water levels, currents, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure and salinity.

Port Fourchon is also part of the national PORTS network.



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